transfer orders of an office bearer of Association of Radio and Television Engineering Employees. The transfer was on administrative grounds within the same city and therefore no cause for grievance exists.

Recruitment of labourers for Basra reconstruction project by Iraq

1229. SHRI* PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq is recruiting a large number of Labourers for its Basra reconstruction project;

(b) whether India has failed to utilise this opportunity due to absence of a manpower export policy; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to streamline manpower export policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINIS TRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of Steel Scrap

1230. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mini Steel Industry in the country is facing various problems, including acute shortage of Scrap;

(b) whether the Industry has requested Government to exempt sponge iron from excise duty;

(c) if so, what is the decision of Government on this request; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to help the mini Steel Industry to regain viability?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Representations received by the Government from the industry indicate that some electric arc furnace units are facing shortage of meltmg scrap and power.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to enable the units to become technologically efficient and more viable, Government have decided to allow expansion of mini steel plants which undertake modernisation. Government is importing scrap from various countries to meet the shortage.

Merger of posts of Training Officer/ Asstt. Training Officer in D. G. E. & T.

1231. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts ot Training Officer and Asstt. Training Officer in D.G.E. & T have been recommended to be merged and placed in the same scale of Rs. 2000-3500;

(b) if so, whether it is not an injustice to the remaining posts i.e. Surveyor/ STA/GI/Store Officer in the same cadre of Asstt. Training Officer prescribing same recruitment qualification and and experience have not been recommended for merger; and

(c) whether D.G.E. & T have taken up this case with Government; if so, what is the reaction thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINIS TRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On the application from Senior Technical Assistant/Q.I./Surveyor etc. the case is pending with the Central Administrative Tribunal, New Delhi and therefore, is *subjudice.*

Production and Import of Sugar

1232. SHRI SHANT1 TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the carry over stock of sugar of the last season and the estimated production of sugar in the current crushing season; and

(b) whether Government proposes to cut down import of sugar in this year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI DL. BAITHA): (a) The carry over stock of sugar at the beginning of 1988-89 season was about 25.32 lakh tonnes. The present estimates of production during the current season are at about 99.50 lakh tonnes. However, the firm production trend will be known by the end of March/April, 1989.

(b) No imports are envisaged during the current season.

Opening of Branches /Officers of Registrar of Newspapers in all State Capitals

1233. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open branches/offices of Registrar of Newspapers in all State Capitals with full rights;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Due to financial constraints, it has not been found possible to open Offices of Registrar of Newspapers for India in all State Capitals. However, it is proposed to upgrade offices at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta as Regional Offices to look after the needs of the newspapers in the respective Region.

Loans by N.F.D.C. to Private Film Production Companies

1234. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: SHRI HARI SINGH: SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of loans given to private film production companies by N.F.D.C. during the last three years and what are their names alongwith amount advanced to them; how much of it has since been returned and by which company to the N.F.D.C. year-wise; and

(b) what measures have been taken to realise the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Statement indicating tie loans disbursed by National Film Develo-ment Corporation to private film production companies/individuals under its Film Financing Scheme during the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 and the amount repaid by them till date are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 66.]

(b) List of measures taken or available to National Film Development Corporation to realise the arrears are indicated in the Statement.